I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER147056813US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: August 28, 2003

Signature: Jaa Hawi
(Staci Harris)

Docket No.: HO-P02190US1 (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Nicholas Thomas, et al.

Application No.: TBA

Art Unit: N/A

Filed:

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: MICROFABRICATED APPARATUS FOR

CELL BASED ASSAYS

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.